

Mem. of St Wilfrid, secondary patron of the diocese: Mon. 12th Oct. 2026:

Bishop Wilfrid first came to Sussex when he travelled to France for his consecration because he did not trust the validity of the Celtic ordination rite. He was shipwrecked off the Sussex coast and was attacked by the pagan inhabitants. He came a second time, because the Northumbrian King exiled him as he favoured his own appointment as bishop. At this second visit, he found that the King of the Southern Saxons had converted to Christianity, allowing a small community of monks to establish at Bosham, Chichester. The people were still pagan, but with Royal approval, Wilfrid preached the gospel. The Aristocracy were well disposed to receive the gospel, but the people were suffering a severe famine, and so firstly, Wilfrid taught them to fish and feed themselves - in saving their lives, he could then save their souls.

Opt. Mem. of St Edward the Confessor, King – Tuesday 13th October 2026:

Edward is the last of the Anglo-Saxon Kings of England; a humble man who modelled his reign on Christ the King, who came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many. The foundations of his life were prayer and practical kindness, as such the people recognised him as a true confessor of the faith. An authentic king leads people into the Kingdom of Heaven. Through encouraging little acts of sacrifice from his people, he was able, stone by stone, to build up the great Abbey at Westminster as an icon of heaven. His death is followed by a power struggle between Harold and William, and his death leads to the battle of Hastings (14/10/1066)

opt Mem. of Our Lady of Fatima – also Tuesday 13th October 2026:

Today marks the end of Our Lady's appearances between 13th May and the 17th of October 2017. On 13th October between 30,000 and 100,000 witnessed '*the Miracle of the Sun*', its spinning and careening towards the earth, before zigzagging back to its original position; others saw Jesus, while others saw nothing.

Opt. Mem of St Callistus, Pope and Martyr – Wednesday 14th October 2026:

Callistus is a former Roman slave who rose to be an archdeacon and finally Pope. His papacy focused on forgiveness and reconciliation, particularly extending absolution to those who had committed serious sins, including sexual transgressions, which was controversial. He oversaw the construction of cemeteries and basilicas, including the Catacombs of St. Callistus, which became a significant burial site for early Christians.

Memorial of St Teresea of Avila, Virgin – Thursday 15th October 2026:

At the age of twenty, Teresa, entered the '*Carmelite Order of the Incarnation*', taking the name '*Teresa of Jesus*'. Her spiritual work called '*The interior Castle*' describes the development of the Christian life as it moved towards its fullness. She speaks of a structure with seven room as an image of the human person's inner being. We are at various stages with our relationship with God. She speaks of the Christian as being a silkworm who is re-born as a butterfly, as we move from the natural to the supernatural realm of grace. We will finally find God and share in the divine life of the Trinity once we make it through to the seventh room, deep within our soul, but we must allow ourselves, by prayer, to journey deeper into the mysteries of our salvation so that we may come to friendship with God, a relationship that envelops the whole life.

Opt. Mem. of St Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin – Fri. 16th October 2026:

Margaret Mary Alacoque received a private vision of Jesus. She says that Jesus asked her to promote a special devotion to the Sacred Heart, as a celebration of God's love for us and a reminder that His heart is the source of the Church's sacramental life, for the blood and water, flows from his pierced side. Saint Mary Margaret Alacoque says: *Our Lord Jesus Christ desires that we should, for sanctifying ourselves, glorify his all-loving heart, for it was his heart that suffered the most in his sacred humanity.* Margaret Mary Alacoque says: '*Consider often that it is only the humble of heart that can enter into the sacred heart of Jesus Christ, converse with him, love him and be loved by him*'. Although this devotion grows in prominence in 17th Century due to revelation to St Margaret Mary Alacoque, it can be traced back through the writings and teachings of the Fathers of the Church, Margaret Mary receives and gives a fresh understanding, assurances of peace, comfort, and holiness to those who honour the Sacred Heart.

St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr – Saturday 17th October 2026:

Ignatius died in Rome c.110AD. Already an old man at his execution, there's a good chance he knew the apostles. As bishop, he was arrested, because the Romans recognised him as the figurehead of the community. They could have killed him locally but instead took him 1800 miles to Rome, so he already had an international profile. As he went, he wrote '*pastoral letters*' to the local churches. To the Philadelphians he stressed the need for unity around the bishop, for a proper Church always has a bishop, and so, we pray for Bishop-Elect Stephen as he prepares for his ordination.